

Norse World

Mapping foreign place names in medieval Swedish and Danish texts

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The Norse Perception of the World Project

The Norse perception of the world project is funded for three years (2017–2020) by the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, to create an online, searchable index with mapping capabilities of foreign place names and other spatial references in medieval Swedish and Danish texts.

East Norse (Old Swedish and Old Danish) literature is a mine of information on how foreign lands were visualised in the Middle Ages: What places were written about and where? Are some places more popular in certain text types or at certain times? How do place names link different texts? Is there a shared concept of spatiality? How is space gendered? Any research aiming to uncover what pre-modern Scandinavians understood about places abroad requires as a minimum an index of foreign place names in East Norse literature, an infrastructure that has not existed until now.

As philologists our focus is on the forms of the language, for instance spelling variation, context and other linguistic features.



By clicking on the markers, the map can be freely explored without preconceived notions. When something specific is sought, the search bar or the filters may be used.

Search

☒ Light search
 ☐ Deep search
 ☐ Original form
 ☐ Variant form
 ☐ Lemma form
 ☐ Standard form

Search

Genre:
 Dating, after year (coming soon):
 Dating, before year (coming soon):

Source type:
 Source:
 Work:

Place name/Non-name:
 Type of place name:
 Type of locality:

Type of non-name:
 Real/Fictional:
 Level of certainty:

Language:
 Old Swedish prepositions:
 Old Danish prepositions:

https://norseworld.nordiska.uu.se/index.php?type=attestation&id=3335

Norse World

vplenzska danska oc nordmen soma | ok
 thydiska men som widhæ koma

Variant form: thydiska
 Lemma form: pybisker
 Standard form: German (adjective)

Work: Erikskrönikan (The Chronicle of Duke Erik), Old Swedish
 Source: D 4a (manuscript)
 Edition: Pipping 1963, p. 15
 Level of certainty: Commonly attested and known

Search 1 ADD SEARCH



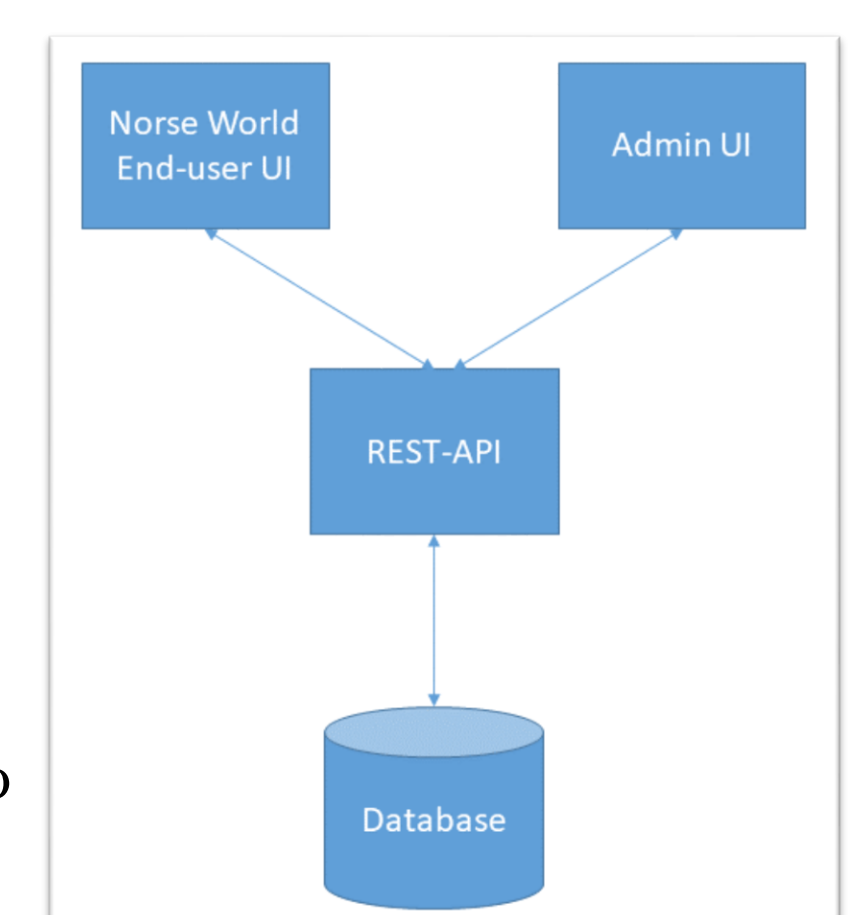
Example. Preliminary results for spatiality of different genres. Chronicles and histories deal mainly with Sweden and Denmark's neighbouring countries in the north, Devotional works are centred around Rome and the Holy Land, the latter is also a centre for Encyclopaedic and didactic works and Romances usually take place in Western Europe.

Technical specifications

- bespoke MySQL database
- Leaflet library for mapping
- REST-API with JSON and GeoJSON and JSON-LD compatibility

Why not LOD?

- When we started the application process we did not know about LOD
- Project group's lack of experience with ontologies (where to start, which to use, onomastic ontologies?)
- Developers' lack of experience with LD and public procurement reasons for choosing our developers



Norse World system overview

How we have tried to bridge the gap to LOD

- Use of and linking to open resources: GeoNames, Libris (The National Library of Sweden's catalogue of books in Swedish libraries), Manuscripta – A Digital Catalogue of Manuscripts in Sweden (using IIIF)
- REST-API with GeoJSON and JSON-LD compatibility
- Linkable detailed views of attestations, Works, Sources, Variant forms, Lemma forms and Standard forms
- Data is CC-BY 4.0

Example. Multiselect is possible. The relation between the selections is written out in the search box.

Selected values in Search 3

I (old swedish prepositions)

OR

In I (old swedish prepositions)

Search

☒ Light search
 ☐ Deep search
 ☐ Original form
 ☐ Variant form
 ☐ Lemma form
 ☐ Standard form

Search

Genre:
 Dating, before year:
 Work:

Source type:
 Type of locality:
 Level of certainty:

Place name/Non-name:
 Type of non-name:
 Old Swedish prepositions:
 Old Danish prepositions:

Old Swedish prepositions: a af for fram genom in i in 1 in 2 in 3 in 4 in 5 in 6 in 7 in 8 in 9 in 10 in 11 in 12 in 13 in 14 in 15 in 16 in 17 in 18 in 19 in 20 in 21 in 22 in 23 in 24 in 25 in 26 in 27 in 28 in 29 in 30 in 31 in 32 in 33 in 34 in 35 in 36 in 37 in 38 in 39 in 40 in 41 in 42 in 43 in 44 in 45 in 46 in 47 in 48 in 49 in 50 in 51 in 52 in 53 in 54 in 55 in 56 in 57 in 58 in 59 in 60 in 61 in 62 in 63 in 64 in 65 in 66 in 67 in 68 in 69 in 70 in 71 in 72 in 73 in 74 in 75 in 76 in 77 in 78 in 79 in 80 in 81 in 82 in 83 in 84 in 85 in 86 in 87 in 88 in 89 in 90 in 91 in 92 in 93 in 94 in 95 in 96 in 97 in 98 in 99 in 100 in 101 in 102 in 103 in 104 in 105 in 106 in 107 in 108 in 109 in 110 in 111 in 112 in 113 in 114 in 115 in 116 in 117 in 118 in 119 in 120 in 121 in 122 in 123 in 124 in 125 in 126 in 127 in 128 in 129 in 130 in 131 in 132 in 133 in 134 in 135 in 136 in 137 in 138 in 139 in 140 in 141 in 142 in 143 in 144 in 145 in 146 in 147 in 148 in 149 in 150 in 151 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